

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00804 221509Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /079 W  
-----019179 221511Z /53

O R 221435Z APR 78 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7151  
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 804

DEPT PASS SECDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, WA  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: THE STATE OF PLAY

1. ON THE EVE OF THE LONDON MEETING OF THE FIVE FOREIGN  
MINISTERS, THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE SAG IS CLOSE TO SOME  
KIND OF DECISION ON THE NAMIBIA PROPOSAL AND THAT THE  
PRINCIPAL INFLUENCES AT PLAY RIGHT NOW ARE THE POLITICAL  
INFIGHTING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP AND THE REQUIREMENTS  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE (DTA) IN NAMIBIA.  
BOTH OF THESE INFLUENCES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WESTERN  
RESPONSE TO THE SAG'S REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON SECURITY  
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FOR NAMIBIA DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. AT THE MOMENT,  
THE CABINET IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP THE NAMIBIA QUESTION ON  
TUESDAY, APRIL 25.

2. ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN HAS BEEN IN CAPE TOWN  
THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS FOR MEETINGS WITH BOTHA AND  
FOURIE AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. HE PRESUMABLY HAS GIVEN AT

LEAST A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE VIEWS OF THE INTERNAL PARTIES AND GROUPS IN NAMIBIA. DEPENDING ON WHAT COMES OUT OF THE LONDON MEETING ON SUNDAY, BOTHA MAY WISH TO HAVE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH NAMIBIAN LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE DTA. IF SO, ANY DEFINITIVE CABINET DECISIONS IN THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE PUSHED BACK BEYOND ITS APRIL 25 MEETING.

3. BRAND FOURIE TOLD US APRIL 21 THAT THE DAT CONTINUES TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. THE DTA IS REMAINING CLOSE-MOUTHED REGARDING THE VIEWS IT PRESENTED TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL EARLIER THIS WEEK. IN PUBLIC COMMENTS, HOWEVER, MUDGE HAS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL IS "NOT UNACCEPTABLE," ALTHOUGH THERE REMAIN "CERTAIN ASPECTS" WHICH MUST BE CLEARED UP. IN ADDITION TO SEEKING ASSURANCES ON THE QUESTION OF SECURITY, MUDGE IS LIKELY ALSO TO INSIST THAT ANY SAG ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLAN BE CONDITIONED ON A TIME LIMIT FOR INITIATION OF THE PROCESS.

4. THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE CABINET IS UNCERTAIN. IT SEEMS REASONABLY CLEAR THAT THE INTENSIFYING SUCCESSION STRUGGLE HAS INFLUENCED MANEUVERING WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP ON THE NAMIBIA ISSUE. DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA'S BELABORING OF THE 1975/76 ANGOLA ADVENTURE (CAPE TOWN 786 AND 765) SUGGESTS HE IS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF WESTERN RELIABILITY IN THE NAMIBIAN CONTEXT. FOURIE ALSO  
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TOLD US THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EFFORT TO OBLIGE PIK BOTHA TO PRESENT HIS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CABINET YESTERDAY, APRIL 21, IN THE MIDST OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S ATTEMPT TO STIR UP DOUBTS. THE MOVE WAS FORESTALLED BY THE NEED TO AWAIT THE LONDON MEETING OF THE FIVE.

5. IN HIS PLEAS FOR WESTERN HELP, PIK BOTHA MAY BE OVER-DRAMATIZING THE SITUATION, BUT WHATEVER HIS MOTIVATIONS AND INTENTIONS, HE WANTS AS STRONG A COMMITMENT AS POSSIBLE OUT OF THE FIVE FOR USE WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND THE DTA. (BOTHA TOLD BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT TODAY HE HAD PHONED DAVID OWEN TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE RESPONSE OF THE FIVE BY MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 24.)

6. THE DIE MAY IN FACT ALREADY BE CAST, BUT THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT IT IS NOT. VORSTER WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR. IN HIS MOST RECENT PUBLIC REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT, HE LAID DOWN THREE BROAD CONDITIONS, ALL OF WHICH HE WAS WELL AWARE WERE ALREADY ACCOMMODATED BY THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, THEREBY SEEMING TO INDICATE THAT HE WAS HOLDING OPEN THE DOOR TO ACCEPTANCE (CAPE TOWN 746). THE AFRIKAANS PRESS HAS ALSO PREPARED THE PUBLIC FOR THE

POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT. SO THE SCENE APPEARS TO BE SET  
FOR THE SAG TO GO EITHER WAY. THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS  
USUAL STYLE, WILL GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PRESERVING THE  
UNITY AND COHESION OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERSHIP ON  
THIS MAJOR ISSUE. IN THIS SITUATION, THE RESPONSE OF  
THE FIVE ON SECURITY, WHILE NOT NECESSARILY  
DECISIVE, COULD WEIGH IMPORTANTLY IN THE BALANCE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, WA  
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